

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (P A R A F O U R)

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: PROVDA ON SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS AFTER SENATORIAL VISIT

1. SUMMARY. IN A DETAILED COMMENTARY PEGGED TO LAST WEEK'S MEETING BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND THE U.S. SENATE DELEGATION, PRAVDA UNDERSCORED THE SOVIET COMMITMENT TO DETENTE BUT
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IMPLIED CLEAR LIMITS ON THE PACE AND RANGE OF PROGRESS.

THE COMMENTARY NOTED BOTH SIDES' ENDORSEMENT OF FURTHER STEPS TO LIMIT THE ARMS RACE, BUT BLASTED THOSE ON CAPITOL HILL WHO SEE DETENTE AS BRINGING ONE-SIDED ADVANTAGES TO THE SOVIETS. THE ARTICLE ALSO DENOUNCED SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S RECENT REMARKS ON POSSIBLE FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE USE AGAINST THE USSR, AND REVEALS ACUTE SOVIET SENSITIVITY OVER BERBERA. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY COMMENTARY ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (JULY 6) BY REGULAR OBSERVER THOMAS KOLESNICHENKO DEVOTES MAJOR ATTENTION TO SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS, BEGINNING WITH BREZHNEV'S MEETING WITH THE SENATORS. THE COMMENTARY REPEATED BREZHNEV'S ASSERTION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS. "BOTH SIDES," SAYS PRAVDA, STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF DEVELOPING AND DEEPENING RELATIONS "ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY, NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MUTUAL BENEFIT." PRAVDA CITES WESTERN PRESS REPORTS ON THE SENATORS' REMARKS AFFIRMING BREZHNEV'S SUPPORT FOR LIMITING THE ARMS RACE AND WORKING FOR PEACE.

3. THE COMMENTARY NOTES THAT DESPITE "DIFFERENT POSITIONS" ON MANY INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, THE U.S. AND THE USSR CAN DEVELOP BETTER RELATIONS. HOWEVER, SAYS PRAVDA, THERE STILL EXIST, "ESPECIALLY IN THE U.S.," FORCES OPPOSED TO THIS PROCESS, AND IT SINGLES OUT THE NEW SERIES OF HEARINGS BY THE JACKSON SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOVIET-U.S. TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS. "SOME PEOPLE ON CAPITOL HILL" ARE TRYING TO SHOW THAT DETENTE ONLY BENEFITS THE SOVIET UNION AND HAS NO BENEFITS FOR THE U.S. OR THE WEST, SAYS PRAVDA. THESE MISGUIDED SOULS USE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAM, PORTUGAL, ITALY, AND NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK TO ARGUE THEIR CASE. THIS IS MERELY AN EFFORT TO OPPOSE THE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLES, SAYS PRAVDA. "POLICY MUST BE REALISTIC," PRAVDA CONTINUES, AND U.S. SETBACKS DO NOT MEAN THAT POSITIONS SHOULD BE CHANGED IN THE U.S. FAVOR.

4. THE COMMENTARY THEN ZEROES IN ON SECRETARY SCHLESINGER FOR HIS RECENT REMARKS ON WESTERN EUROPEAN DEFENSE, PARTICULARLY THE POSSIBLE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST A SOVIET THREAT. "PERHAPS SCHLESINGER NEVER HEARD OF THE SOVIET-U.S. AGREEMENT ON AVOIDING NUCLEAR WAR," SAYS PRAVDA, AND GOES ON TO CITE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMENTS BY U.S. PUBLIC FIGURES (E.G., TERRY SANFORD AND BELLA ABZUG) AGAINST SCHLESINGER. PRAVDA CLAIMS THAT THE PENTAGON ALWAYS CONJURES UP AN ALLEGED SOVIET THREAT AT BUDGET TIME, AND SAYS THAT THE "FISHERY WAREHOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES" IN SOMALIA IN PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE U.S. PRESS TURN INTO 'STRATEGIC BASES' RIGHT AT THE TIME OF BUILDING A U.S. BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA. PRAVDA QUOTES BREZHNEV TO THE EFFECT THAT THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE IS TOO IMPORTANT FOR SECONDARY

ISSUES TO BE ATTACHED TO IT. THIS FORMULATION THUS IMPLICITLY ASSOCIATES BREZHNEV WITH THE SOVIET DENIAL OF A BASE AT BERBERA --THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE SEEN SUCH A LINKAGE.

5. COMMENT: THE REFERENCES TO THE BREZHNEV-SENATORS' MEETING AGAIN POINTS UP THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE SOVIETS ATTACHE TO THEIR AMERICAN CONNECTION, ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT GO INTO DETAILS ON THE ISSUES DISCUSSED. THE REFERENCES TO CONTINUING DIFFERENCES WITH THE U.S. OVER THE INTERPRETATION OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SEEM TO POINT TO REDUCED SOVIET EXPECTATIONS FOR FURTHER SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON DETENTE, AT LEAST IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT. WHILE REITERATING MOSCOW'S COMMITMENT TO THE GENERAL COURSE, THE ARTICLE SEEMS RESIGNED TO A SLOWER PACE. ON SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, THE COMMENTARY IS SHRILL, AS USUAL. THE QUOTATION OF SCHLESINGER'S REMARK ABOUT POSSIBLY USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST THE SOVIETS IS THE FIRST SUCH MENTION WE HAVE NOTED. IN SUM, THIS SIGNIFICANT COMMENTARY PORTRAYS A COMPLEX PICTURE OF SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT IT ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE PRESENT SOVIET ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBLEM AREAS OVER THE NEAR TERM.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE TO THE SENATORIAL GROUP WHICH WILL BE MEETING THE SECRETARY JULY 8)

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